

ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN



ALL IN

15+
TEEN+ 18

A
NEW
STORY
STARTS
HERE!



Sandoval

AARON
SANDOVAL
ARREOLA

DC COMICS FINALLY GOES MAD!

MAD ABOUT DC

**A 64-PAGE
ONE-SHOT**
CELEBRATION OF
COMICS, CHAOS
& QUESTIONABLE
DECISIONS

GUEST
EDITED BY
**CHIP
ZDARSKY!**



**ON SALE
APRIL 1
WHEREVER
COMICS ARE SOLD!**

NO WHOOPEE CUSHIONS INCLUDED

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ALSO AVAILABLE!



**VARIANT COVER
BY CHIP ZDARSKY**

ANCIENT EGYPT. MORE THAN 3,000 YEARS AGO.

I WAS A CHILD
OF THE KEMET.
THE FERTILE
FLOOD PLAINS
OF THE NILE
DELTA.

THE
BLACK
LAND.

MY PARENTS
SAID WE CAME
FROM THE EAST, A
REGION ALONG
THE SEA CALLED
KAHNDAG.

BUT THAT WAS
BEFORE WE WERE
DRAGGED FROM OUR
HOMES TO SERVE AS
SLAVES TO THE
PHARAOH.



CAN'T...
GO ON.

ANUBIS,
PLEASE TAKE
ME NOW.

AS FAR AS I
COULD REMEMBER,
THE BLACK LAND
WAS ALL I'D EVER
KNOWN.



GET
UP, YOU
WORTHLESS
SON OF A
DONKEY!

UGH!

MY MOTHER **STARVED** TO DEATH IN THE BLACK LAND. MY FATHER WAS **BURNED ALIVE** AS A LEPER.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS BECAME INFESTED WITH **BLOOD WORMS** AND WERE FED TO THE CROCODILES.



ALONE, WITH NO FAMILY, NO ONE WHO EVEN KNEW MY NAME, I WORKED THE FIELDS AND WAITED FOR MY TURN TO **DIE**.

HEY!

I DID NOT WAIT **QUIETLY**.



LEAVE HIM ALONE!

CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S AN **OLD MAN**?

HEH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

...LOOKS LIKE THE BOY'S RIGHT.



HE'S SO OLD HE'S NOT **WORTH** BEATING.

NO!

HUGHK!



NOW, **YOU** ON THE OTHER HAND, BOY...

ALL MY PARENTS LEFT ME WAS THAT NAME. ONE THAT BECAME MORE OF A **CRUEL JOKE** WITH EACH PASSING DAY.



GARRGH!

TETH-ADAM, THEY CALLED ME.

"**MIGHTY MAN**."

IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU WANT TO LAUGH. I KNOW I DID.



AT NIGHT, THE PHARAOH DINED
ON THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR.
DATE-SPRINKLED SWEET CAKES
AND SOFT, WHITE BREADS OF
SIFTED FLOUR.

SOFTSHELL TURTLE STEW
AND FAT-MARBLED GOOSE
STUFFED WITH FIGS AND
GOAT CHEESE.

SLOW-ROASTED,
HONEY-GLAZED GAZELLE.

WE ATE MASHED
BEANS AND ROCK-
HARD BREAD FULL
OF WEEVILS AND
SAND. SUCH WAS
THE WAY OF THE
WORLD.

AND DESPITE THE
RAGE THAT ENGULFED
MY HEART, I COULD
NOT DENY THE TRUTH
OF ALL TRUTHS...THAT
NO ONE, NEITHER
CHattel NOR KING...

HE IS
COMING.

...NO ONE WAS
MIGHTY ENOUGH
TO **CHANGE THE**
WORLD.

DO NOT
DESPAIR, YE
ENSLAVED, FOR A
SAVIOR SHALL
RISE.

HE WILL TOPPLE THE TOWERS OF
THE OVERLORDS. BRING **FREEDOM**
TO THE OPPRESSED. JUSTICE TO
THE WRONGED.

HE
WILL COME
ROARING LIKE
THE **TEMPEST**,
WITH THE POWER
OF AN **ARMY**,
THOUGH HE IS
BUT ONE.

HE WILL REND
THE CHAINS OF
BONDAGE WITH HIS
OWN MIGHTY
HANDS.



WHAT **NONSENSE** IS THIS? YOU SPOUT FABLES FOR CHILDREN! WHO ARE YOU, STRANGER?

AS YOU SAY, I AM BUT A **STRANGER**. ONE WHO HAS TRAVELED FAR, PASSING THROUGH THE SHADOWS LIKE A **PHANTOM**.

JUST AS I SEE THE LIGATURE OF HISTORY, REACHING ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE OMEGA AT THE BEGINNING, FROM WHOM LIFE FIRST METASTASIZED AND TUMORED...

...SO CAN I FORETELL THE WORLD THAT IS TO COME.



HE WILL BE A MAN UNLIKE ANY OTHER. WITH **EYES OF FIRE** AND STRENGTH BEYOND IMAGINING. IMBUED WITH THE POWER OF THE **SKY ITSELF**.

HE WILL WALK AMONG THE **CLOUDS** AS FREELY AS HE DOES THE LOWLIEST AMONG YOU.

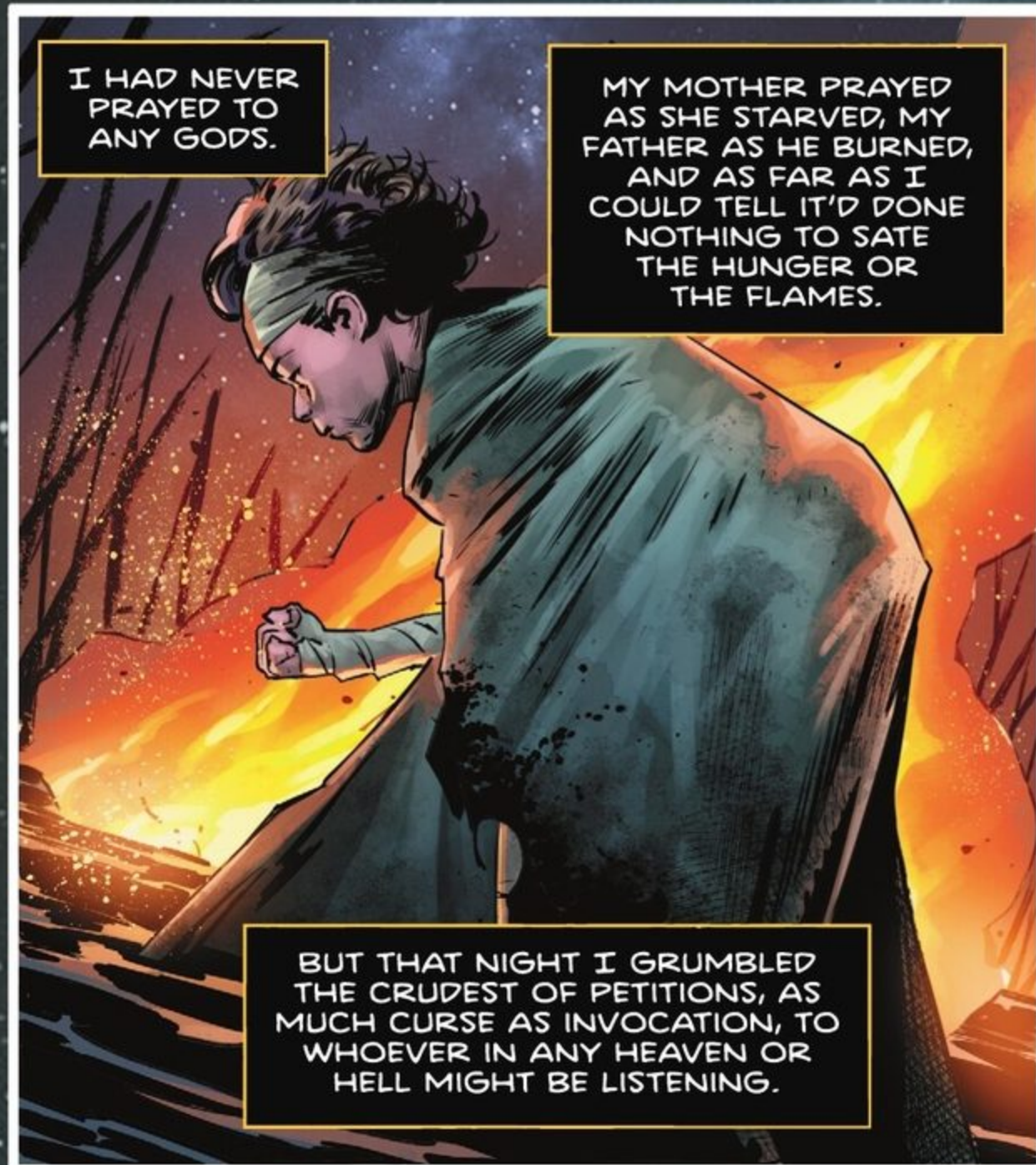
HE WILL WEAR THE **DUST OF HIS HOME** UPON HIS BACK.



AND WHEN HE COMES, MARK MY WORDS...A NEW WORLD SHALL RISE WITH HIM.

AN AGE OF WONDERS UNDREAMT OF.

AN AGE OF **HEROES**.



I HAD NEVER PRAYED TO ANY GODS.

MY MOTHER PRAYED AS SHE STARVED, MY FATHER AS HE BURNED, AND AS FAR AS I COULD TELL IT'D DONE NOTHING TO SATIATE THE HUNGER OR THE FLAMES.

BUT THAT NIGHT I GRUMBLED THE CRUEST OF PETITIONS, AS MUCH CURSE AS INVOCATION, TO WHOEVER IN ANY HEAVEN OR HELL MIGHT BE LISTENING.



AND INSTEAD OF WAITING PENITENTLY FOR AN ANSWER...

...I VOWED TO FIND ONE FOR MYSELF.

OR DIE TRYING.

IT TOOK ME HOURS TO SLITHER
THROUGH THE MUCK OF THE
NILE'S BANKS, PAST CROCODILES
AND MAMBAS, BEFORE I COULD
ESCAPE THE SLAVE CAMP.

ONCE I SET OUT ALONE
ACROSS THE DESHRET,
THE **RED LAND**, I KNEW
THE SLAVERS WOULDN'T
DARE GIVE CHASE.

THEY'D
FIGURE ME
ALREADY
DEAD.

I BEGAN TO
WONDER IF I
MIGHT PROVE
THEM RIGHT.

GRRNH!

I KNEW IT!
THE LEGENDS
WANT US TO
BELIEVE...THERE
ARE GODS IN
THE SKY!

GODS
IN THE SUN,
THE MOON,
THE STORM!
THAT THERE'S AN
ANCIENT WIZARD
WHO LIVES IN
THE DESERT,
GRANTING
WISHES!

BUT
THERE'S
NOTHING
HERE!

THE GODS
ARE A **LIE** TO
PLACATE THE
LOWLY!

IF I'M
WRONG, THEN
STRIKE ME
DOWN NOW, YOU
WORTHLESS
BASTARDS!

GAGH!



ZZAKT

HHRUURH!





ANOTHER SLAVE WHO WISHES FOR FREEDOM. HOW VERY **ORIGINAL**.

LOVE, WEALTH, LIBERTY. THESE HUMANS DO HAVE THE MOST **TRIVIAL** DESIRES. QUITE BENEATH OUR ABILITIES, BRAINIAC.

YES, BRAINIAC, I AGREE. I SAY WE TURN HIM INTO A CAMEL AND SEND HIM--



WAIT...DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S IN HIS MIND? A BOY WHO IS RAGE MADE FLESH. AND HIS **AMBITIONS...**

DEAR ME, BRAINIAC, YOU MAY BE ONTO SOMETHING. NOW THIS **IS** INTERESTING.



BUT HE'S SO **SCRAWNY**. HE'D NEVER SURVIVE CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS.

DAXAMITE NANITES IN HIS BLOOD, PERHAPS? TRANSPLANTATION OF DOMINATOR ORGANS?

PERHAPS. OR...THERE IS THAT...**NEW DEVICE**.



THE THING WE FOUND IN THAT BLACK HOLE? THE ONE WE HAVEN'T TESTED YET?

I SUPPOSE IT'S WORTH A SHOT. JUST TO SEE HOW IT DECIDES TO **KILL** HIM.

COME, BOY, YOUR WISH WILL BE GRANTED AFTER ALL! AND ALL YOU NEED DO...



...IS SAY THE **MAGIC WORD**.

AAAAARRGGGH!

CENTRAL
KANSAS.
NOW.

SO...IT HASN'T
MURDERED YOU YET,
I SUPPOSE?

NO,
JIMMY. I DON'T
THINK THE *PARASITE*
EVER HAD EVIL INTENT.
IT'D JUST BEEN STARVED
AND MISTREATED FOR SO
LONG BY LAZARUS
CORP.

SINCE
I'VE BEEN
KEEPING IT FED
ON CONTROLLED
DOSES OF MY OWN
ENERGY, IT SEEMS
AS DOCILE AS A
PUPPY.

OUCH. HEY,
REMEMBER THE
RULE, SI. *NO*
BITING.

CHOMP

US NO
BITE?

BUT
US LIKE
BITE.

SURE. A
PUPPY WHO
COULD DEVOUR
AN ENTIRE CITY IF
YOU TURN YOUR
BACK FOR A
SECOND.

METROPOLIS.

JUST WATCH YOURSELF, KAL. I STILL HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT THAT THING.

SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU, JIMMY. WHAT'S WRONG? HOW'S THE NEW JOB?

OH, IT'S A BLAST.

PRETTY MUCH ALL I DO IS TYPE IN A.I. PROMPTS.

HEY, RED! YOU JACKED UP THE COFFEE ORDER AGAIN, YOU MORON!

ALSO MAKING LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS.

I JUST DON'T KNOW IF THE DAILY PLANET IS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR ME.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT LOIS THERE WITH YOU, RIGHT?

LOIS? SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU?

DIDN'T TELL ME WHAT?

"SHE NEVER SHOWED UP FOR HER INTERVIEW."

LOIS? WHERE ARE YOU?

DAMMIT, I NEVER SHOULD'VE TAKEN THIS STUPID WATCH.

I TOLD YOU, IT'S FOR YOUR PROTECTION. PLEASE TELL ME YOU DON'T NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM YOURSELF RIGHT NOW.

OKAY, SURE, THEN I WON'T. GOTTA GO.

LOIS, PLEASE...

THIS BUILDING CONDEMNED BY ORDER OF G.A.T.E.S.



FINE. I GOT A TIP FROM A **PEACEMAKER** WHO OWED ME A FAVOR.

I'VE FOUND THE **AL GHULS**.

WHERE ARE YOU? I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY.

YEAH, SURE, I'LL TELL YOU.

JUST AS SOON AS I'VE **FINISHED** WHAT I CAME TO DO.

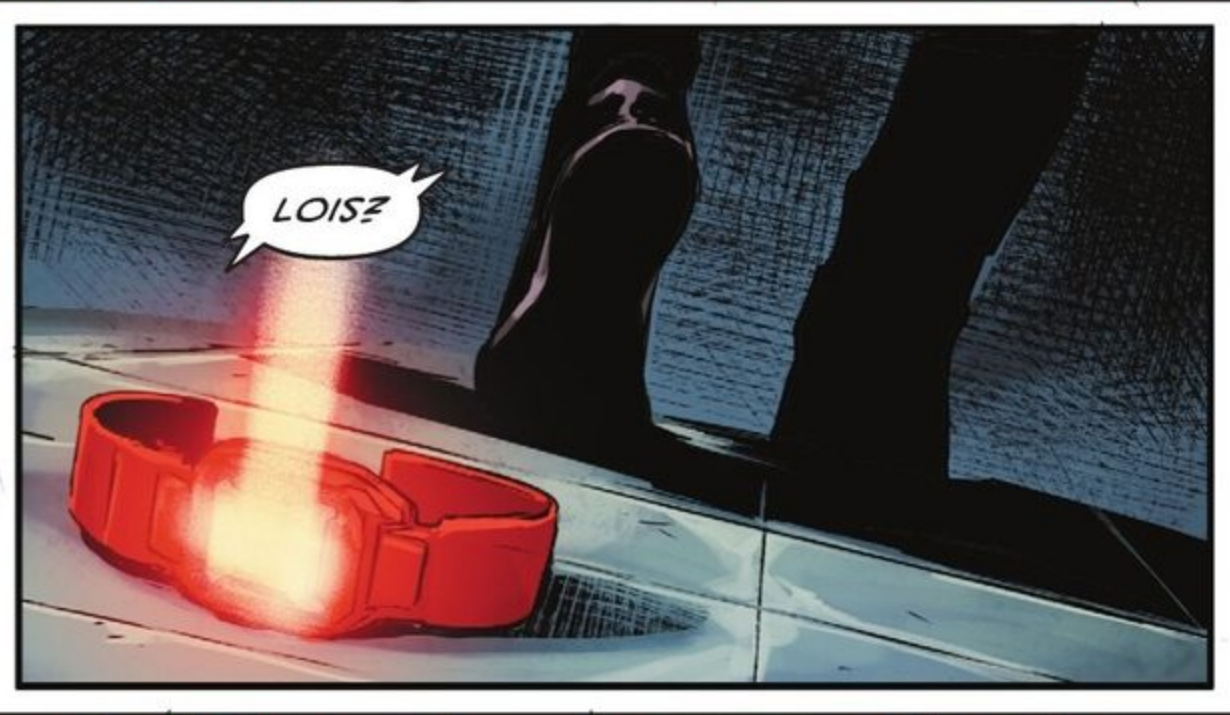
LOIS... YOU'RE WEARING THAT CRYSTAL BECAUSE YOU KNEW I'D CALL. YOU KNEW I'D STOP THIS.

STOP YOU FROM DOING WHAT YOU KNOW IS WRONG.

GETTING JUSTICE FOR MY FATHER? YOU THINK THAT'S **WRONG?!?**

KILLING **TALIA AL GHUL** ISN'T JUSTICE. IT'S MURDER.

NOW PLEASE, TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE. I'M TRYING TO TRACK YOUR CRYSTAL, BUT THERE'S SOME SORT OF **INTERFERENCE**.



LOIS?



WE MUST
MAKE HASTE,
FATHER. MORE
G.A.T.E.S.
AGENTS WILL
BE HERE
SOON.

LAZARUS
CORP'S ASSETS
HAVE BEEN SEIZED
BY THE AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT.

THIS IS
THE ONLY
ONE THAT
REMAINS?

YES, THE
OTHERS WERE
DESTROYED
REMOTELY BEFORE
THEY COULD BE
CONFISCATED AND
EXAMINED.

THIS IS THE
LAST OF THE
**LAZARUS
PITS.**

NOW QUICKLY,
FATHER. CAST OFF
THIS FEEBLE FACADE.
RENEW YOURSELF AND
RECLAIM YOUR
PLACE.



WE WON'T BE ABLE
TO TAKE IT WITH
US, BUT WE'LL BUILD
ANOTHER. ONCE WE
GET OUR HANDS ON
THAT TRAITOROUS
BRAINIAC.

I **THANK** YOU
FOR BRINGING ME
HERE, TALIA. I WOULD
NOT HAVE HAD
THE STRENGTH
OTHERWISE.

THE
STRENGTH
TO DO WHAT
MUST BE
DONE.





HAVE YOU GONE **MAD?!** WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

LETTING GO OF MADNESS. AT LONG LAST.

DAUGHTER, I'VE BEEN SO VERY WRONG ABOUT SO MUCH.



ONLY ONCE I WAS ALONE, AT DEATH'S DOOR, DID I SEE WHAT A FOOL I'D BEEN.

I PRAY THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE AMENDS.

IT STARTS WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS **OBSCENE** MACHINE.



STOP IT! YOU'RE KILLING YOURSELF, YOU IDIOT!

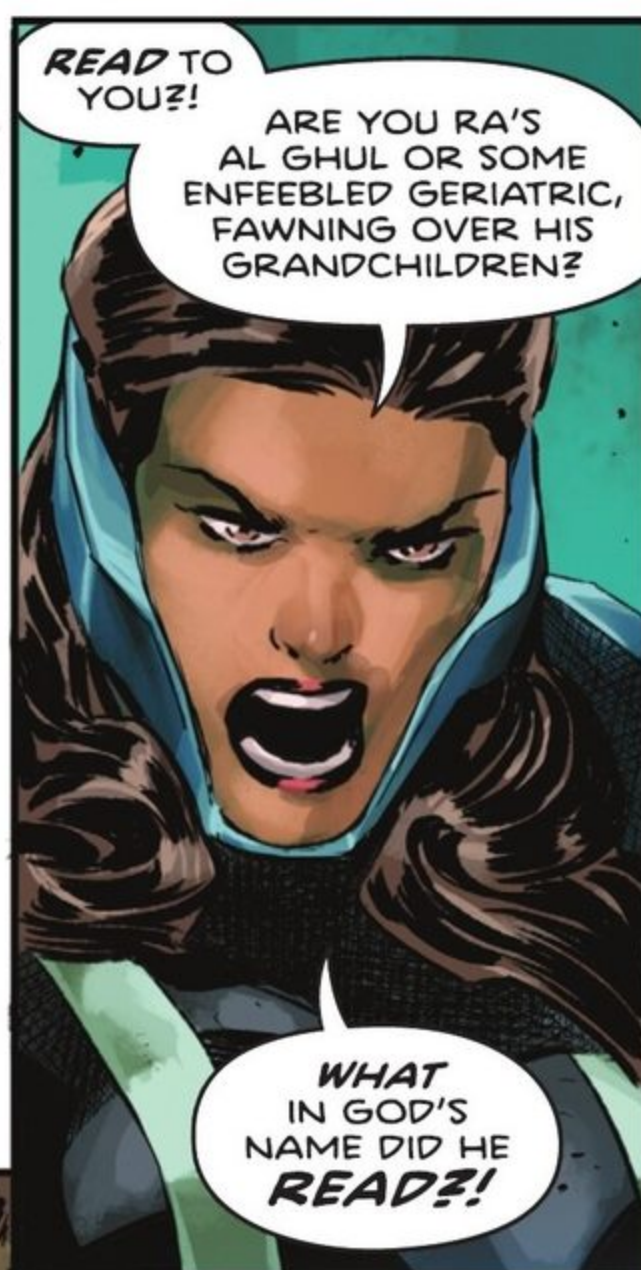
UNNGH!



FREEING MYSELF, YOU MEAN.

WHAT THE HELL DID **SUPERMAN** DO TO YOU?!

HE... READ TO ME.



READ TO YOU?!

ARE YOU RA'S AL GHUL OR SOME ENFEEBLED GERIATRIC, FAWNING OVER HIS GRANDCHILDREN?

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME DID HE **READ?!**



IT WASN'T THE BOOK. IT WAS THE MAN WHO BROUGHT IT.

THE ONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO TRY AND SAVE THE SOUL OF HIS TORMENTOR.

I'VE **WASTED** SO MANY LIFETIMES, DAUGHTER. BUT ALL I WANT NOW IS TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY GREATEST OF SINS.



FOR WHAT I'VE DONE TO **YOU**.

I CANNOT BELIEVE MY EARS! I DO NOT KNOW THIS HUSK OF A MAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE RA'S AL GHUL!

GET THE HELL IN THAT PIT!

I WANT MY FATHER BACK!



I DESERVE YOUR
REVULSION, TALIA. I HAVE LED
YOU SO FAR ASTRAY, YOUR
ENTIRE LIFE.

PLEASE,
LOWER YOUR
WEAPON. LET US
NOT WASTE ANY
MORE TIME
WITH--

RA'S...
SHUT THE
HELL UP.



WE HAVE
COMPANY.



OH NO.

YOU
KILLED MY
FATHER.

DID I? OH
YES. I'D ALMOST
FORGOTTEN.

PLEASE,
LADIES, THIS IS
NOT THE ANSWER.
PUT DOWN
YOUR--



**SHUT
UP, RA'S!**

FEEL FREE
TO SHOOT
MY FATHER, IF
YOU LIKE, LANE, TO
MAKE US EVEN. HE'S
APPARENTLY QUITE
USELESS NOW
ANYWAY.

I'M
HERE TO
KILL **YOU**,
TALIA.



ALL
ALONE?

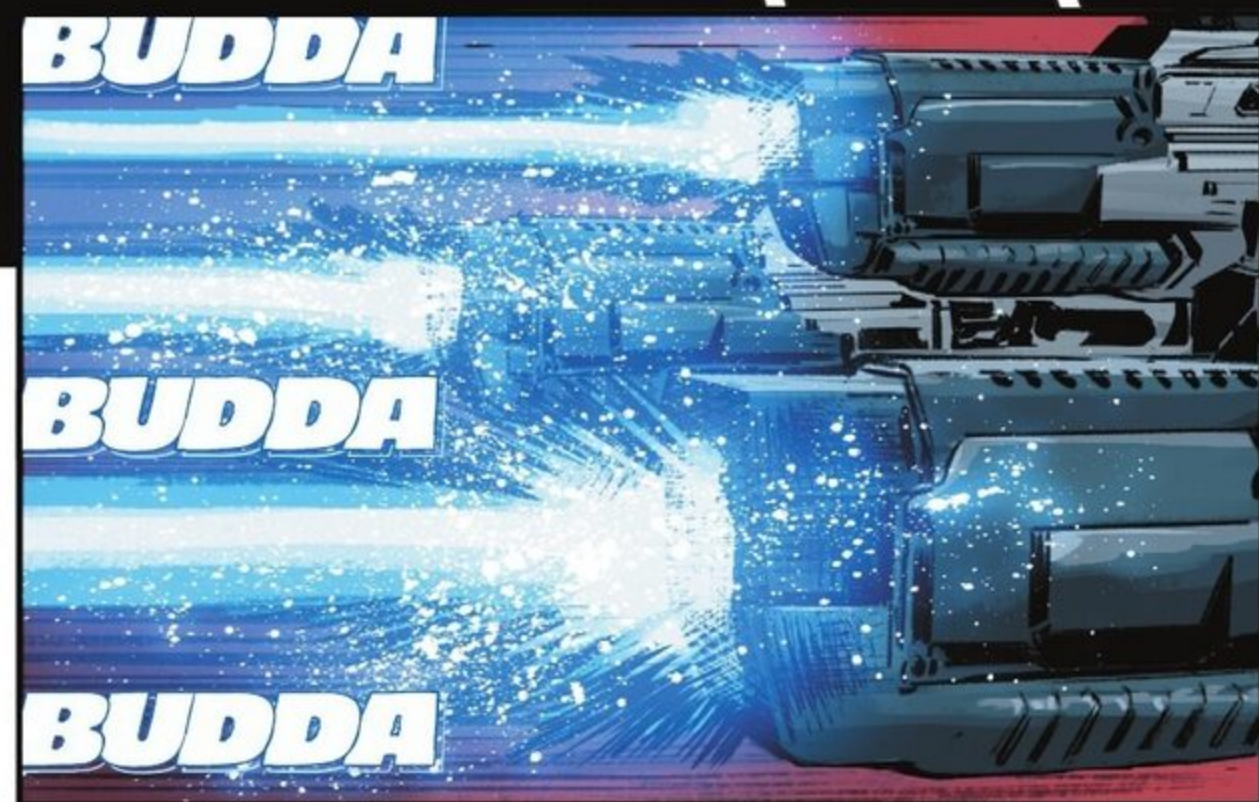
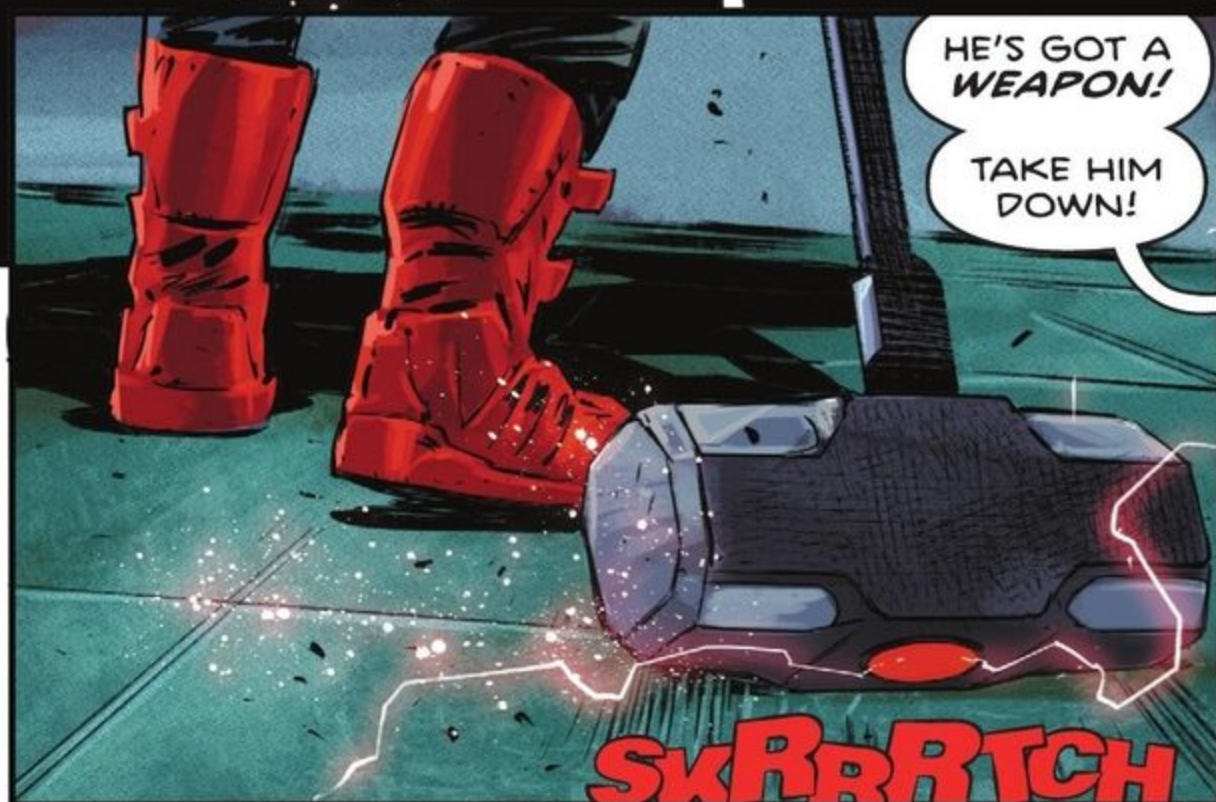
DARLING,
YOU'D NEED AN
ARMY FOR
THAT.

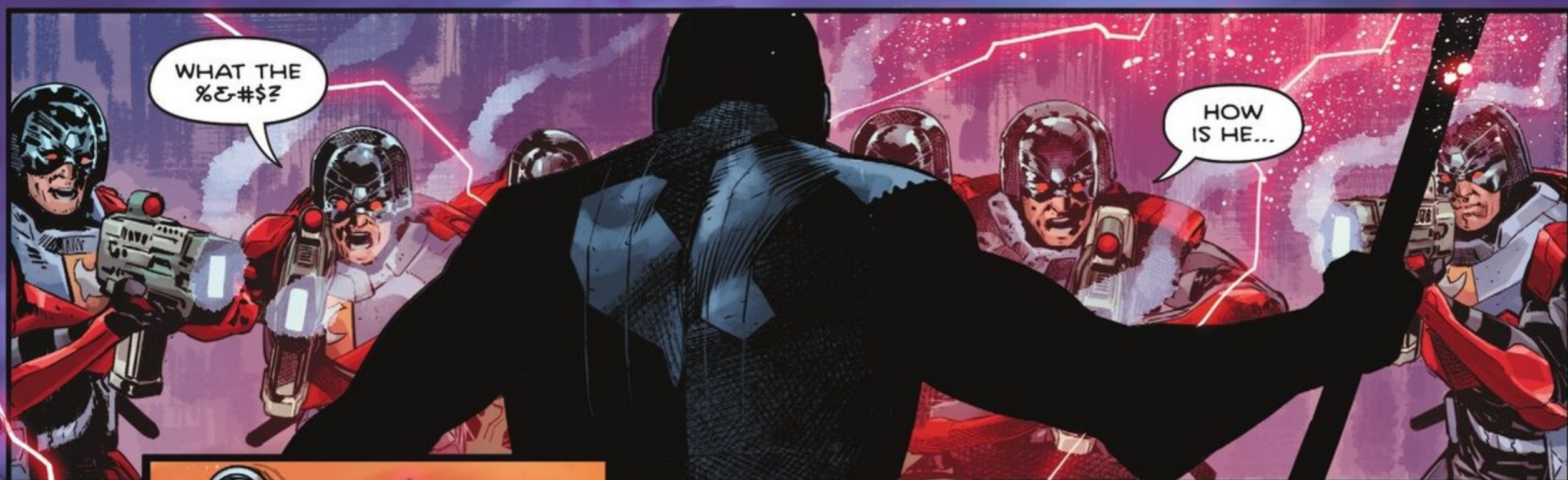




WEAPONS
DOWN.
BOTH
OF YOU.
NOW.







WHAT THE %&#?\$

HOW IS HE...

THAT HAMMER'S
MAGNETIZED!

YANKED
THE BULLETS
RIGHT OUTTA
THE AIR!

THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT THE
HELL IS THAT
THING MADE
OF?!

STEEL.



THOOON



GAAGH,
I'M HIT!

LOAD
COPPER
ROUNDS!
TASER SHELLS!
JUST PUT
HIM--



K
R
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K



K
R
A
N
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H



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I JUST
CRUSHED
YOUR SUIT'S
MAIN POWER
LINE. YOU DON'T
HAVE ENOUGH
JUICE LEFT TO
FIGHT. STAY
DOWN.

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW THAT?
WHO ARE
YOU?



THE
SONUVABITCH
WHO *BUILT* IT.



TALIA, DON'T DO THIS. CALL OFF THE **FATHER BOX**. PLEASE. THIS HAS TO END NOW.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO **SAVE** ME, OLD MAN, THEN PICK UP A WEAPON AND KILL LOIS LANE.

OR MUST I DO EVERYTHING **MYSELF?**



TEK TEK TEK

GAARGH!
IT'S IN MY HEAD!



SUPERMAN?
WHAT IS THAT THING **DOING** TO HIM?!

TALIA, STOP THIS AT ONCE! AS LORD OF LAZARUS, I **COMMAND** YOU!



NOW YOU'RE JUST **EMBARRASSING** YOURSELF. YOU'VE SHOWN YOUR TRUE COLORS ALREADY.

THE KING OF LAZARUS IS DEAD.

ALL HAIL THE **QUEEN**.

ZZZKT



GAAGH!



TALIA, NO!
I FORBID
THIS!

TAKE YOUR
HANDS OFF ME!
DON'T MAKE
ME--



THUNN

GUUGH!

RA'S AL
GHUL!



TODAY'S
THE DAY YOU
DIE.

WHINK



SUPERMAN!
WE HAVE TO
GET YOU AWAY
FROM THAT
THING!

LOIS...



RUN!



KERKOOOM

THOOM

WHO'S THE *WELDER* WITH THE HAMMER? GIVE ME ONE REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T LET HIM KILL YOU.

TALIA... YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS. THIS FIGHT... CANNOT HAPPEN *HERE*.

REMEMBER... WHAT *ELSE* IS STORED HERE. *WHO ELSE*. WE MUST NOT ALLOW HIM TO--

KERKAT-TT

I WAS A CHILD OF THE BLACK LAND.

WHO BECAME A KING.

I BECAME THE SAVIOR WHO WAS PROMISED.

I REMADE THE WORLD IN MY IMAGE.



I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT A PEACE NEVERENDING.

BUT I WAS BETRAYED. I WAS *BURIED*.

THE WORLD OF MY TIME WASN'T READY FOR THE REIGN OF A SUPERMAN.

KRAVA-WAROOOOM

WE SHALL SEE
ABOUT THE WORLD
OF TODAY.

FOR
KING SHAZAM
HAS RISEN.



ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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REIGN OF THE SUPERMAN

PART ONE

*KING OF THE
BLACK LAND*

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY
SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

NEXT
**ABSOLUTE
STEEL!**



Ages 8-12

**Supergirl's summer road trip
through space takes
an unexpected detour!**



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Written by **BRANDON T. SNIDER**,
bestselling author of *The Dark Knight Manual* and writer of the
Reuben Award-winning *Rube Goldberg and His Amazing Machines* series

Art and cover by **SARAH LEUVER**

ON SALE MAY 2026

VERTIGO

In 1993, DC launched its Vertigo imprint, a move that represented the medium’s shift towards mature readers storytelling and robust genre exploration. While it included beloved series that were previously a part of the main DC line, Vertigo became defined by original concepts far outside of superheroes—many of which still stand as some of the most influential and revered comics of the modern era.

Readers came to know Vertigo as more than a publishing initiative, but as a sensibility and aesthetic. Comics that were bizarre and beautiful, transgressive and terrifying, poignant and passionate—those were Vertigo comics, and their success reshaped the comics industry itself along the way.

It’s with that spirit that we bring you the DC Vertigo of today. The imprint first returned last fall by adopting the current series that truly embodies its ethos—*The Nice House by the Sea* by James Tynion IV and Álvaro Martínez Bueno—and it now expands with a slate of all-new series from bold and imaginative voices, starting in February of 2026 with *Bleeding Hearts* by Deniz Camp and Stipan Morian, *End of Life* by Kyle Starks and Steve Pugh, and *The Peril of the Brutal Dark: An Ezra Cain Mystery* by Chris Condon and Jacob Phillips.

DC VERTIGO IS BACK. AND IT’S NOTHING YOU’VE SEEN BEFORE.



17+
MATURE

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